

# SPRING/Uganda

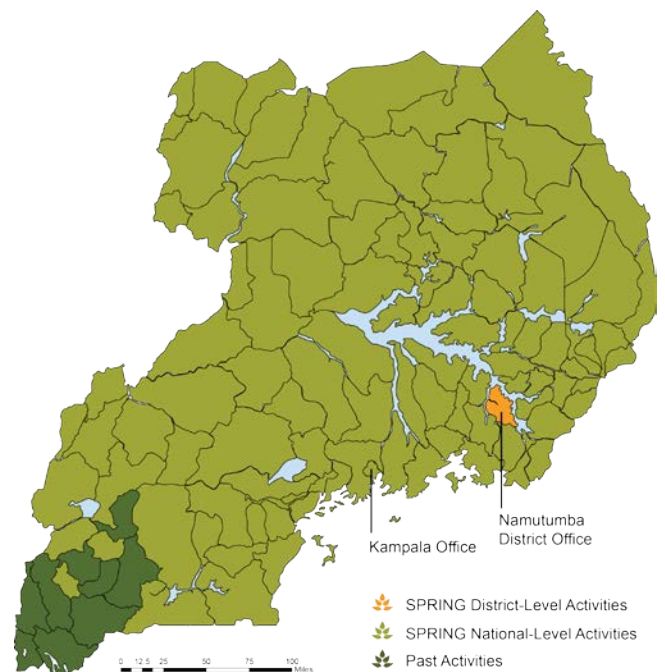
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## Background

Uganda is among the top 20 countries worldwide with a high burden of undernutrition. Twelve percent of women of reproductive age are chronically energy deficient. Among children under five, 33 percent are stunted, 14 percent are underweight, and 5 percent are wasted. Micronutrient deficiencies are highly prevalent among children and women, with rates of vitamin A deficiency at 38 percent and 36 percent, respectively, and anemia at 49 percent and 23 percent respectively.<sup>1</sup>

## What We Do

The Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) project is dedicated to strengthening global and country efforts to scale up high-impact nutrition practices and policies. SPRING provides technical support focused on preventing stunting and maternal and child anemia in the first 1,000 days (pregnancy through two years of age), linking agriculture and nutrition, and creating social change and behavior change through communication. SPRING's mission supports two major U.S. Government initiatives: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths and Feed the Future. SPRING's experienced implementation team consists of experts from JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., Helen Keller International, The International Food Policy Research Institute, Save the Children, and The Manoff Group.



## Our Work

Established in April 2012, SPRING/Uganda's primary goal is to contribute to the reduction of stunting in children between 0-23 months of age and the reduction of anemia in both children 0-23 months and women of child-bearing age. We provide technical assistance and leadership at the national level for large-scale industrial food fortification and multi-sectoral anemia control programs to help reduce anemia. We also provide policy development and communications support for the

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<sup>1</sup> Uganda Bureau of Statistics & Macro International Inc. (2012). *Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2011*. Calverton, Maryland, USA.

introduction of point-of-use micronutrient powders (MNP) to fortify complementary foods for infants 6–23 months old in Namutumba District.

In addition to assisting national-level activities, up until May 2015, SPRING delivered services to improve the nutritional status of mothers and children in the Southwest (SW) and East Central regions of Uganda. Specifically, SPRING supported the reestablishment of the nutrition assessment, counseling, and support (NACS) continuum of care in nine former NuLife-supported hospitals and the expansion of NACS services to 35 health centers in the districts of Kisoro and Ntungamo in the SW region. These NACS interventions strengthened the capacity of facility- and community-based health care providers to deliver nutrition-specific services while linking clients to nutrition-sensitive interventions provided by the health, agriculture, food security, social protection, education, and rural development sectors. Overall, SPRING/Uganda provided technical assistance to district health offices and health centers in Kisoro, Namutumba, and Ntungamo for the integration of NACS into programs for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in 51 health facilities across 12 districts.



The SPRING exhibition booth at the MNP pilot launch event on March 15, 2015 in the Namutumba District.

SPRING/Uganda implemented community-based prevention work in Kisoro and Ntungamo Districts, introducing the community action cycle in select communities, and launching the Great Mothers, Healthy Children SBCC campaign, which included video discussions with community members.

SPRING also supported the District Nutrition Coordination Committees and Sub-County Nutrition Coordination Committees in rolling out the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan.

## Key Partnerships

SPRING's main partners in Uganda include the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Authority, National Drug Authority, the Private Sector Foundation, Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives, World Food Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. SPRING is also engaged with the National Working Group on Food Fortification, the National Anemia Working Group, and the National Micronutrient Working Group.

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